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CDC RESPONSE STATUS: OPEN

DATE: 05/11/2010 as of 1500 hrs EST

REPORT PERIOD: 05/10/2010 1626 hrs EST to 05/11/2010 1500 hrs EST

TIME OF NOTIFICATION: May 10, 2010, 1626 EDT

LOCATIONS OF EVENT: Off the coast of Louisiana

LEAD AGENCY: CDC

LEAD CDC CIO: NCEH

DESCRIPTION: Deepwater Horizon Incident

**Incident Notice – Initial
SITREP #1**

NARRATIVE:

- **SITUATION:** On 4/20/2010 an explosion occurred on the Mobile Offshore Drilling Unit (MODU) Deepwater Horizon. The subsequent fire continued to burn until the MODU sank. The overpressure safety devices built into the MODU drilling string have failed resulting in the largest Gulf of Mexico oil spill on record.
 - DHS declared the Gulf of Mexico oil slick a “Spill of National Significance,” on April 29, 2010 allowing the government to deploy Federal assets from around the country to be used in assisting with oil spill cleanup.
 - NCEH/ATSDR created a Deepwater Horizon Incident Task Force in order to address human health issues related to the oil spill and is developing plans for upcoming operational periods in preparation for potential missions.
 - Two ATSDR personnel were requested from EPA and deployed to the Unified Command Post. Their mission is to provide technical assistance on environmental health issues.
 - NIOSH has deployed a representative to the ACP in Houma, LA, to provide technical assistance to OSHA regarding occupational and worker safety issues.
 - Three DC based ATSDR personnel are working out of the EPA EOC.
 - NCEH/ATSDR is currently preparing a report for EPA that summarizes the review of air sampling data that was received. A Surveillance Plan is being developed by NCEH.
 - The Unified Command confirms shoreline impact of oil on Chandeleur Islands, Louisiana (LA).
 1. The US Coast Guard (USCG) reports the second cofferdam is a redesign of the top piece of the existing cofferdam that will avoid the build-up of the clogging hydrate crystals with an expected completion time of up to 2 weeks.
 2. British Petroleum (BP), Houston continues researching 4 different options (containment, Blowout Preventer (BOP), top kill, and relief wells) to contain the source leak.
 3. BP is attempting to install a pressure gauge on the BOP to get an accurate oil release amount.
 4. There are no In Situ burns or skimming operations scheduled for today, 11 May.
 5. Booming and dispersant operations are ongoing. To date, 97,688 barrels of oil – water mixture have been recovered and 1,175,400 feet of boom have been assigned.



6. Surface dispersants applied on 10 May was 56,220 gallons and total to date is 428,307 gallons.
 7. Subsea dispersants applied to date is 16,399 gallons.
- The United States Coast Guard is the lead agency for this incident response. Incident Command Posts (ICP) have been established in Houston, TX, Houma, LA, and Mobile, AL, with a Unified Area Command at the Shell Training Center in Robert, LA.
 - The FEMA National Response Coordination Center (NRCC) is at Level III for the southeast flooding event, but continues to monitor the oil spill situation.
 - FEMA Region IV Regional Response Coordination Center is at Level IV operations (Steady-State).
 - FEMA Region VI has not activated (Watch/Steady State).
 - No FEMA assistance has been requested.
 - The Emergency Management Group (EMG) has been activated to a modified Level III, and will advance if and when response teams are deployed or as the situation dictates.
 - HHS ESF 8 has not been activated
- **EOC ACTIVATION:** May 10, 2010, 1624 hours.

Overview of CDC Strategic Objectives:

- Provide assistance on all matters related to the assessment of health hazards at a response and protection of response workers and the public health.
- Determine whether illnesses, diseases, or complaints may be attributable to exposure to a hazardous material.
- Establish disease/exposure registries and conducts appropriate clinical testing.
- Develop, maintain, and provide information on the health effects of toxic substances.

CDC Activities:

- The National Center for Environmental Health (NCEH) task force is developing materials to service requests for information on the health effects of oil dispersants.

Deployments:

- As of 12 May, CDC currently has 2 personnel deployed to Mobile, AL, and 3 personnel to Houma, LA for a total of 5 deployed personnel.

ATSDR Liaison to EPA HQ Emergency Operations Center Desk

- Situation Report 10 May 2010 (1500 EST)
 - There was a CDC internal call at 0900 to provide updates on current ops.
 - No formal taskings for the ATSDR Liaison desk to EPA EOC.
 - There was a Senior Management ESF#8 Conference Call from 0930 - 1030.
 - No formal taskings for the ATSDR Liaison desk to EPA EOC.
 - EPA inquired today about the status of the dispersant fact sheet clearance; EPA wants to reference it in a press brief today, 5-10. Per Jana Telfer, the fact sheet is going through required clearance, which includes HHS, WH, and the national JIC, and left the CDC on Saturday 5-8.
 - At 1215, there was an EPA EOC All Hands meeting to provide current status on ops and technical specialist updates.
 - Shift runs 0700-1900 on May 10
 - At 1300, there was a data issues call with EPA Office of Air and Office of Water staff, and ATSDR (Rich Nickle, and Deborah Burgin).
 - ATSDR and both EPA offices explained how they looked at sampling/monitoring data and what values they used to compare the data in order



to ensure consistency. Those looking at the data discussed issues they are having (such as units changing, descriptions of any businesses near locations of monitoring stations that might impact readings) for the EPA EOC headquarters staff to attempt to resolve with the relevant parties.

- The Environmental Unit (EU) will meet at 1615 every day to discuss Data Issues. ATSDR is requested to attend.
- The ATSDR Environmental Health team is reviewing the data package from EPA dated May 9, 2010. ATSDR does not anticipate any increased hazard to human health related to the oil spill based on this data.
- There were several changes made to the Data Management Cycle for all data as it comes into the Environmental Unit:
 **Beginning May 9 all data (monitoring, sampling, water, air, sediment) will be published to the web ONCE a day, at 1800
 The data that will be published is that data that was received the PREVIOUS DAY. For example, the data that was received from the field yesterday, May 8, will be published at 1800 today (May 9.) The data that will be received today will not be published until tomorrow at 6 PM.
- Data Management Cycle
 - 1430 - 1600 - ERT notifies EU that all Regional data is loaded and ready for review
 - 1430 - 1600 - EU Data Manager forwards spreadsheets to ATSDR, and others
- Data Issues Meeting (To be held AS NEEDED): EU, OAR, Water, ATSDR, chemist, PIO, etc. OAR and Water continue to review air, water, and sediment sampling data and air monitoring data and develop standard text for any previously unpublished substances for publishing at 1800 the next day 1800 (the following day) - PIO publishes all data from the previous day (air monitoring and sampling data) and associated "headlines" to web site
- The ATSDR environmental health lead mailbox is now set up and all requests will be sent there. Due to technical issues we will also send a CC to Rich Nickle until advised otherwise.

Joint Information Center:

Communication Surveillance & Social Media Monitoring Report May 10, 2010

COMMUNICATION ACTIVITY METRICS

		M	Tu	W	Th	F
		5.10	5.11	5.12	5.13	5.14
Web Page Views						
	CDC Earthquakes Web Page	*				
Direct Inquiries						
	Public calls or emails to CDC INFO	*				
	Clinician calls or e-mails to CDCINFO	*				
	COCA emails	0				
Media Interest						
	Print/internet	151				
	National television stories	*				
	Local television stories	*				
	Total television	*				



	Journalist inquiries	3				
Twitter	# tweets/per hour					
	"Oil spill"	891				
Blogs	# blogs in 24 hr period					
	Google Blogs	25,558				

TABLE NOTES

Reporting Periods

- Twitter: current reporting date
- CDC-INFO, COCA emails, Web, Print/Internet, TV, Blogs: 1 calendar days prior to reporting date
- Journalist inquiries for May 10 are the total received to date

Media Sources

- Print/Internet: Largest daily paper and associated website in each of the top 25 U.S. media markets, and major wire services
- National TV sources: ABC, CBS, NBC, CNN, and FOX News network broadcasts
- Local TV sources: affiliate broadcasts (ABC, CBS, NBC, FOX) in each of the top 25 U.S. media markets

*not available by reporting deadline

AUDIENCE FEEDBACK

Journalist Inquiries (N=3 received to date)

- WebMD
- CNN
- Health.com

Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill Media Summaries

PROMINENT THEMES ACROSS TRADITIONAL NEWS MEDIA

Public Health Threats

Food & Water Threats

- Scientists and policymakers agree that the oil spill poses a greater threat to wildlife and vegetation than the chemicals in the dispersants although effects of the chemical dispersant are still widely unknown
- Waters in the Gulf have been closed to all fishing
- Contamination in fish and shellfish may pose a significant risk of cancer and other health effects for many years to come

Air Quality/Smell

- Fumes were so intense aboard a support ship that a crew member and an AP photographer on board had to wear respirators while on deck
- Residents of southwestern Louisiana have complained about odors causing headaches, burning eyes and nausea; there are other reports of coughing and throat irritation
- Inhalation of oil vapors or aerosolized particles (from wind-blown waves) could have serious exacerbations to people with asthma or other lung diseases
- People who inhale large amounts of fumes are in danger of a chemical poisoning called hydrocarbon pneumonia

Skin Exposure

- Direct skin contact can cause various kinds of rashes, including generalized skin irritation, or something known as "folliculitis" from oil-clogged skin pores



Emerging Themes/Other

- Some of the volatile chemicals in oil have been linked to miscarriage, preterm birth and low birth weight; pregnant women should avoid the areas directly along the waterfront and beachfront, even when oil is not visible
- New research suggests that natural light enhances oil's toxicity

CDC Mentions

- NIOSH is working with EPA and BP to train oil-contamination cleanup volunteers
- The CDC is working with epidemiologists in the Gulf states to develop studies of health repercussions from the oil spill

PROMINENT THEMES ACROSS SOCIAL MEDIA

Public Health Threats

Food & Water Threats

- Fish washing up in the Florida Keys; other areas of Florida have lethargic fish with odd water color and odd smells
- Oil spill puts fisheries and birds at risk along the Gulf coast
- NOAA has restricted fishing in area around deepwater Horizon Incident Location
- Gulf oil spill has potential to endanger human health by tainting water and contaminating seafood

Air Quality/Smell

- Oil spill clean-up workers face serious health hazards including breathing difficulties and throat irritation; the sooty, acrid smoke coming from the burn off of oil can also affect air quality
- Gulf oil spill has potential to endanger human health by polluting the air
- Odors being reported around Gulf beaches as far away from the spill as Naples, FL
- Residents of southwestern Louisiana have complained about odors causing headaches, burning eyes and nausea

Skin Exposure

- Oil spill clean-up workers face serious health hazards including dermatitis and eye irritation

CDC Mentions

- CDC All-hazards preparedness mentioned in connection with Gulf spill

EXAMPLES FROM SPECIFIC SOCIAL MEDIA SOURCES

Public Health Threats

Food and Water Threats

- [Leading Edge Indicator](#) (unclaimed on iReports, 5/10) - Although the waters in Destin were still clear on Mother's Day, the lethargic, if not dead, small fish spoke volumes. Though this is soon to change, we've only had odd smells, odd water color and lethargic fish to date. [CNN Report](#)
- [Fish washing up in the Florida keys from spills](#) (thatcherhawk on iReports, 5/10) - fish washing up in the florida keys from spills [CNN Report](#)
- St Bernard Parish needs help w/oil spill. Wildlife coming ashore, national guard says this is worse than Katrina! <http://twitter.com/Justtobe/statuses/13739940542> [twitter](#)
- Oil Spill Puts Fisheries, Birds at Risk Along US Gulf Coast <http://bit.ly/d4au7x> <http://twitter.com/bottonVOA/statuses/13740036155> [twitter](#) Oil spill may pose health risks, officials say. Air pollution, plus tainted water, seafood, may cause ills. <http://bit.ly/dCvgHp> via @msnbc <http://twitter.com/Medilum/statuses/13725980090> [twitter](#)
- [NOAA Expands Fishing Closure in Oil-Affected Gulf of Mexico ...](#) (5/9 by Nation2Nation)
NOAA has modified and expanded the boundaries of the **closed fishing area** to better reflect the current location of the BP oil spill, and is extending the fishing restriction until May 17. The closed area now represents slightly less than 4.5 percent of Gulf of Mexico federal waters. [Google blogs](#)



- [GreenLoop360: Water, Water Everywhere but Not a Drop to Drink ...](#) (5/10 by GreenLoop360) Petroleum is another form of chemical pollutants that usually contaminates water through **oil spills**... Oils can also seep into the waterways through the groundwater as a result of a leak or small spill.

Air Quality/Smell

- **Oil Spill** Cleanup Workers Exposed to Significant Health Hazards: The body is thought to be able to repair the type... <http://bit.ly/cd2XUo> <http://twitter.com/janicedavis26/statuses/13739848089>
- The health effects of oil spills: Oil spill clean-up brings workers and volunteers into close contact with chemicals... <http://bit.ly/bMNIUi> http://twitter.com/Living_Green/statuses/13733788844
- **Toxic Terrorism: Gulf oil spill threatens public health « Jericho ...** (5/10 by jerichorendevous)
In the past few days, residents of southwestern Louisiana have complained about **odors** causing headaches and burning eyes and nausea.
- **Did you smell strange odor in the air over the weekend?** (5/10 by EHN) A kerosene-type smell has been noticed by some in Southwest Florida and other Gulf areas. On Saturday in the Tampa area, beachgoers reported a **burning odor** and complained of nausea and nasal irritation.
- **Florida State Emergency Response Team Information Blog: FLORIDA ...** (5/10 by DEM External Affairs)
Those near Florida's **Gulf Coast** may detect an **odor** because of the oil spill. Some people are more sensitive to these odors and may experience nasal irritation and feelings of nausea.

Skin Exposure

- Health Risks from Oil Spill: Direct contact with the oil may cause painful skin rashes. The EPA is monitoring air ... <http://bit.ly/blzuVd> <http://twitter.com/tweedlesyoung/statuses/13656982955>
- **Monday's Escambia Oil Update: NorthEscambia.com** (5/9 by William)
Avoid direct **skin contact** with oil, oil-contaminated water, sediment and wildlife. Do not swim, ski or fish in areas affected by the oil spill. If you get oil on your skin, wash it off immediately with soap and water.

CDC Mentions

- [Association of Schools of Public Health Responds to Gulf Oil Spill ...](#) (5/10 by Sophie Fleck)

As part of a national initiative, funded through the **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention**, the accredited Schools of Public Health, working in close collaboration with state and local health agencies, are providing training and education that respond to the public health preparedness and response needs of state, local and tribal public health authorities. The response to the oil spill in the Gulf involves multiple agencies as work continues to contain, clean and minimize the impact on the environment.

Situational Awareness (SA): NSTR

Plans:

- Coordinating SITREP reporting requirements.
- Developing draft initial Incident Action Plan.
- Coordinating staff rhythm.
- Coordinating IMS responsibilities.

Logistics: NSTR

SRS (formerly TSU):

- Provided links to ATSDR Toxic Substance Portals for Fuel Oil/Kerosene and Total Petroleum Hydrocarbons (TPH) profiles to Brock Lamont and the Region 4 and 6 RECs for their reference and use.



- Requested GIS support for the Environmental Health Leader's response to EPA sampling data.
- Advised all current NCEH/ATSDR functional leads of current reporting requirements and transition plans.
- Advised all current NCEH/ATSDR functional leads of CDC Common Operating Picture (COP) location on the EOMS.
- Air monitoring results from Region VI in the EPA Request for ATSDR Data Review (5/8/2010) show the following: At Station V02, Hydrogen Sulfide was detected above odor detection on 5/7 from 0800-1800 and very low LEL readings were detected on the same day from 0900-1500. These levels were not sufficient to present a health concern, but the time correlation and the detection of any indications of explosive vapors in the open air is somewhat unusual. At Station V05, hydrogen sulfide levels were above odor detections on 5/7 and 5/8. This seems to be the norm for this station and will not be mentioned again unless much more significantly elevated. Other readings were unremarkable. ATSDR does not anticipate any increased hazard to human health related to the oil spill based on this data. ATSDR has requested any available EPA field observations that may help explain future unusual readings at Station V02.

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